

admitted to the wards, but in the making and recording of observations which tend to increase the sum of our knowledge of tuberculosis.

The Chairman stated that 1,700 persons had been treated since the hospital was established. Of the cases discharged during the year—28 were very much improved, 92 much improved, and 157 improved. Of the cases in which the tubercle bacillus was discovered, 233 were improved out of 310. In England and Scotland the death-rate from tuberculosis was steadily diminishing; in Ireland it had increased. Of all the deaths in Ireland between 15 and 35, one half were caused by various forms of the disease, chiefly phthisis.

Sir William Smyly seconded the adoption of the report.

His Excellency, in supporting the resolution, said he would be proud to be associated in any way with the work of the hospital.

The other speakers were Sir J. William Moore, Sir C. Cameron, Sir W. Watson, Mr. J. Mulhall, Dr. Lumsden, and Mr. J. R. O'Connell.

A special vote of thanks was passed to Dr. J. B. Coleman, C.M.G., and Dr. Parsons, the visiting physicians.

THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

The annual meeting of the Ulster Branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption was held in the Town Hall, Belfast, on March 20th, the Lord Mayor, the Right Hon. Sir Daniel Dixon, M.P., in the chair.

Mr. Robert Brown, Honorary Secretary, read the annual report, which showed that a large number of booklets had been distributed. The Lord Mayor moved the adoption of the report.

Professor Byers, M.D., in seconding, said that the death-rate from consumption in England had steadily declined, but that in Ireland it had risen from 178 in 1864 to 215 in 1901-3 in 100,000 of population. He grouped the main causes of this increase as follows: (1) Want of knowledge on the part of the public of the nature of the disease; (2) improper food; (3) the enormous increase in Ireland of pauperism relieved at home and by the dispensary system, which favoured the treatment of even advanced cases of phthisis at home; (4) want of proper teaching of the ordinary laws of hygiene. He urged that measures should be taken to diminish the opportunities of infection and the adoption of means to increase resistance to the disease by an improved nutrition of the people. Various solutions had been offered for the problem of incipient cases; all taught the value of open windows and sunlight. More advanced cases became dangerous, and ought to be shown the absolute necessity for proper management of the expectoration. Patients in the third stage were the most dangerous, and ought to be isolated in hospitals. He urged the appointment of a subcommittee of the Public Health Committee to form a bureau of information on all questions relating to tuberculosis.

Professor Caton (Liverpool) then delivered an interesting and instructive popular lecture on the subject, and, amongst other recommendations, said that the Poor-law dispensary regulations would have to be amended in order that the dispensary medical officers might render the useful aid they were qualified and ready to give, especially among the poorer districts.

Professor Lindsay, M.D., moved a vote of thanks to Professor Caton for his address and urged the necessity of many hygienic precautions. The motion was seconded by Sir Otto Jaffé and passed with applause.

HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, HAMPSTEAD AND NORTHWOOD.

The annual meeting of the Governors of the Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest was held in the lecture hall at the Central Out-patients' Department in Fitzroy Square on March 22nd.

The chair was taken by Sir Benjamin Cohen, Bart., one of the vice-presidents of the institution, who, in opening the proceedings, referred to the satisfactory work of the hospital during the past year as evidenced by the report presented by the Committee of Management.

The report stated that the large waiting list of accepted applicants for admission was evidence that the institution is appreciated by those for whose relief it is maintained. Want of adequate funds prevents all the 250 beds at the disposal of the Committee from being utilized, and there still remain nearly 100 not fully occupied.

The medical report showed that 6,356 patients had been treated during the year; 5,270 as out-patients (16,810 attendances) at the Central Out-patient Department in Fitzroy Square, and 1,086 as in-patients at the hospitals at Hampstead and Northwood. A medical report on the Branch Hospital at Northwood opened for the reception of patients in September, 1904, stated that 488 patients had passed through its wards by the end of 1905.

The medical report on the hospital at Hampstead gave a sketch of the progress of the charity since its formation in 1860, from a local institution to one receiving patients from all parts of the kingdom, as is shown by the table indicating the locality of the homes of 556 patients. Both at Hampstead and at Northwood the open-air treatment is fully carried out, many of the patients sleeping on the open-air balconies throughout the year. The report states that it is "interesting to observe the marked improvement under open-air conditions in disease other than tuberculosis, and in the advanced cases of tuberculosis pulmonalis as well as in the earlier cases." It is also interesting to note that the patients who slept on the balconies when there was dense fog did not seem to suffer from this, "in fact many of them slept better on those nights, although some had tuberculous laryngitis in addition to their pulmonary mischief."

The branch hospital at Northwood has proved in actual working to be admirably adapted for its purpose. The construction of the wards allows of practically an open-air life even for bed cases. The large French windows permit of beds being easily wheeled on to the wide terrace, and many patients have slept outside both in summer and winter with great advantage.

The extensive grounds have afforded opportunities for exercise on the paths of varying gradients, and for providing employment in making paths, gardening, etc., for those patients whose condition permitted work under supervision. Special efforts have been made to provide work of a suitable nature for all capable of performing it. It is recognized that with a prolonged stay in hospital some occupation is necessary to prevent moral deterioration. At Northwood, where the period of residence is often three months and more, this requirement has received particular attention. In about 30 per cent. of the cases the local disease was reported "arrested."

Some interesting statistical tables show the essential importance of commencing treatment in the earlier stages of the disease and thus emphasize the importance of early diagnosis. A table giving the percentage improvement in 1,532 cases shows improvement in 90.3 per cent. of the cases in which only one lobe of the lung was affected; 66.6 per cent. improved of those with two lobes affected; whilst, when three lobes were affected, 57 per cent. improved, and only 46.4 per cent. of those with more extensive mischief. Every effort is made to follow up the patients after they have left the hospital, and the reports received from time to time witness to the permanency of the improvement in many cases. A table of the laryngeal cases, drawn up by Mr. H. Barwell, the surgeon-laryngologist, showed most satisfactory results, and some remarks in regard to the condition of the patients' teeth by Mr. Lawson Dodd, the surgeon-dentist, are worthy of attention.

THE CENSUS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The recently-issued census of the British Empire, to which brief allusion has previously been made in these columns, is a document dealing with items of an almost staggering magnitude. This appears whether we have regard to area, population, religions, or any of the other details which may form the subject of a census.

INCREASE OF AREA.

Between 1861 and 1901 the British Empire has grown from 8½ millions to close on 12 millions of square miles in area; more than 4 millions of square miles are situated in North, Central, and South America, 3 millions in Australasia, 2½ millions in Africa, and nearly 2 millions in the Indian Empire and other parts of Asia. The area of the country in Europe controlling this vast Empire is only about 125,900 square miles!

INCREASE OF POPULATION.

During the same interval the population of the British Empire has grown from about 259 to 400 millions. Of

this population 41½ millions is within the United Kingdom, over 5 millions in Australasia, 7½ millions in America, about 43 millions in Africa, over 300 millions in Asia.

It is important in considering this increase of population to distinguish carefully between increase due to added territory and increase due to natural increase or migration. This is fully set out in the report. Thus, comparing the period 1871-81 with 1881-91, the population of the British Empire increased 12 per cent. by added territory, 10.7 per cent. by actual increase, while in the most recent decennial intercensal period it only increased 1.4 per cent. by added territory and 3 per cent. by actual increase. To arrive at the true inwardness of this diminished rate of increase the Indian Empire must be separated from the rest, as during the last decade its native states and agencies showed an actual decrease of 5½ per cent., due to famine and pestilence. Then it will be seen that the increase of population—excluding such increase as was due to added territory—was in each of the four last decades 11.8, 14.5, 11.6, and 8.6 per cent. respectively. Evidently, therefore, the decline in the rate of actual increase was not confined to the Indian Empire. The report connects this fall in large measure with the continued depression of the birth-rate, "which has become general in nearly all countries." The increase of population in India in the last decade was only 2.5 per cent., as compared with 13.2 per cent. in the preceding and 23.2 per cent. in 1871-81. Confining our attention to the decade 1891-1901, it is interesting to note the differences of increase of population in the chief parts of the Empire, in part caused by variations of the birth-rate and in part by variations of migration. The population of the United Kingdom increased 9.9 per cent. in the decade, that of Cape of Good Hope 57.8 per cent., of Natal 54.2 per cent., of Hong Kong 34.2 per cent., of New Zealand 21.8 per cent., of the Australian Commonwealth and of Ceylon 18.6 per cent., of British West Indies 15.8 per cent., of Malta 11.9 per cent., of Straits Settlements 11.8 per cent., of Canada 11.1 per cent.

DENSITY OF POPULATION.

The figures as to density of population shed an interesting light on variations in conditions of life. In the United Kingdom there were at the last census 324 persons to a square mile, and in the Indian Empire 172, while in the Dominion of Canada the density was as low as 1.4 and 1.3 persons per square mile respectively. Some provinces of India approximate to England and Wales in density of population. The latter has 558 persons per square mile, while Oudh has 535, Bengal 495, Madras State 420, and Agra 419 persons per square mile. Mauritius and its dependencies have 453 persons to the square mile. The number of towns over 50,000 persons throws light on the same point. There were 187 such cities or towns in the Empire at the date of the last census, 87 of these being in the United Kingdom, 78 in India, 7 in Australasia, and 5 in Canada. The increase of urban at the expense of rural population is one of the most important social problems of the day. At the last census 31 per cent. of the total population in Ireland, 70 per cent. in Scotland, and 77 per cent. in England and Wales were living in towns. In Australasia the proportion of the populations enumerated in town areas varied from 68 per cent. in New South Wales to 39 per cent. in South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania. In Canada the proportion was 38 per cent., in the Cape of Good Hope 26 per cent., in Orange River Colony 22½, in the Transvaal 19½, and in Natal nearly 11 per cent. of the total population. In India a marked contrast is seen. Of its total population of nearly 295 millions, less than one-tenth live in places classed as urban areas.

OCCUPATIONS.

Closely connected with the subject of density of population and of aggregation in towns is that of occupations of the population. The agricultural industry is still, judging by the number engaged in it, one of the most important in the British Empire. The proportion of the male population engaged in agriculture at the last census was approximately 44 per cent. in the Orange River Colony, 43 per cent. in Cape Colony, 42 per cent. in the British Empire, 39 per cent. in Ceylon, 36 per cent. in Trinidad, 35 per cent. in Ireland, 21 per cent. in New Zealand, 18 per cent. in the Australian Commonwealth,

7.8 per cent. in Scotland, and 6.8 per cent. in England and Wales. The stupendous significance of these figures is best realized when they are considered in connexion with the populations to which they refer. Thus, in India 90 million persons, or nearly one-third of the total population, is returned under the heading "Pasture and Agriculture," while the dependents of these people numbered over 104 millions.

The proportion of men and women engaged in domestic service throws much incidental light on social circumstances. In England and Wales such persons form 12.5 per cent. of the total population, in Ireland 9.6, in Scotland 8.8, in the Australian Commonwealth 7.5, in New Zealand 6.1, and in the Indian Empire only 2.5 per cent. of the total.

RELIGIONS.

But perhaps the most remarkable part of the report is that dealing with the religious beliefs of the Empire. Although no religious census is tolerated in England, no insuperable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining information as to the religious beliefs of the people in other parts of the Empire. Of the 319 millions whose religious beliefs are enumerated, only a little over 20 millions are returned as possessing the Christian religion. If we include Great Britain, etc., then about 57½ millions is a rough estimate of the number of persons in the British Empire possessing one or another form of the Christian religion. We may, then, broadly classify about 395 millions of the population of the British Empire as follows: Hindus, 208; Mohammedans, 94; Christians, 58; Buddhists, 12; Primitive Animistics, Pagans, and other non-Christian religions, 23 millions.

BIRTH-PLACES.

The statistics as to birth-places give some clue as to pressure of population on subsistence. Thus, between 1891 and 1901, the numbers born in foreign European countries living in England increased from 194,000 to 284,000; in the Cape of Good Hope this number increased from 11,150 in 1891 to 30,160 in 1904; in Canada the increase in ten years of Russians was from 9,917 to 31,231, and of Scandinavians from 7,827 to 18,388. The Commonwealth of Australia was exceptional in showing an actual decrease in the number of European foreigners in the decennium.

Of the 398 millions in the British Empire, "whites" formed 13.6 per cent., and "coloured" persons 86.4 per cent. of the total population. The largest number of the latter were, of course, in India, but 29 millions were in West Africa, and 5½ millions in South African colonies. The number of Chinese in the Empire was over 300,000, of whom 230,000 were in Hong Kong, 47,000 in the Indian Empire, 30,000 in the Australian Commonwealth, and 17,000 in Canada.

CONCLUSION.

Although in the preceding account of the Imperial census we have excerpted the statistics of widest interest, we can only pretend to have given a very incomplete conception of the value of this report, which deserves detailed study. Its last paragraphs contain certain general considerations and conclusions which will doubtless receive the attention of all responsible census officials when the details of the next census are arranged. If these details are codified, and entire uniformity of information can be secured for every part of the Empire, the next Imperial census report will be even more valuable than the present, on the issue of which the Registrar-General, Mr. A. C. Waters, and Dr. Tatham, who sign it, may alike be congratulated.

ALCOHOL AND CRIME.—The *Zeitschrift für Socialwissenschaft* gives the following figures as showing the close relations between alcoholism and crime. Of 380 crimes and offences perpetrated in one German town during one week, 165 (43 per cent.) were committed on Sunday; 68 (18.1 per cent.) on Monday; 62 (16.3 per cent.) on Saturday; whilst 85 (22.6 per cent.) were committed on the four other days of the week. Of 261 assaults in another town, 124 (47 per cent.) were committed on Sunday; 54 (20 per cent.) on Monday; 20 (8 per cent.) on Saturday; while 63 (25 per cent.) were distributed among the other four days of the week. Of the 261 assault cases, 196 (or three-fourths) took place in cafés and taverns after 6 p.m.; it is therefore a probable inference that they were committed under the influence of drink.